



February 15, 2023

Attn: Human Services and Aging Committees

RE: SB989 - Proposed 4.1 Direct Care Nursing Home Minimum Staffing Mandate

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Jim Thompson and I have been a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator in Connecticut since 2010. I am currently the Administrator at Torrington Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation, a 75-bed located on 80 Fern Drive in Torrington, Connecticut, with nearly 130 employees.

The purpose of this letter is to express my opposition to the proposed mandation requiring Connecticut Nursing Homes to provide a minimum direct care of 4.1 hours per patient day, and why I feel it will not work. First and foremost, since the era of COVID-19, there has been a drastic reduction in healthcare workers both locally and nationally, and simply not enough available to meet this mandate. This is easily validated by the fact we have advertised multiple positions for several months, yet we still have minimally 10-12 unfilled positions seeking Nurse's Aides, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Registered Nurses. While we struggle daily to meet the minimum staffing in our building, existing staff are being burnt out as they work extra shifts just to meet the needs of the facility. The fact that this proposal is to be an unfunded mandate can't possibly be achieved by our facility, and would create a financial strain on a system already impaired by cost overruns that nursing homes can no further afford. Lastly, while it is important that our residents receive the care they deserve, the focus should be investing aiding our current staffing levels, not an unfunded and mandated expansion of direct care staffing.

I am asking that when your committee is presented this proposal, that you please not allow SB989 to be approved. Should have any additional concerns, please reach out to me, and I will make myself available to discuss further. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Thompson". To the right of the signature, the letters "LNHA" are handwritten.

James Thompson, Administrator

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